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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

December 14, 1971

Dear John:

As you are aware, in recent months there have been a number of violent acts directed at Soviet Embassy and UN Mission personnel, as well as other Soviet officials in this country. Following the shooting on October 20 into the Soviet UN Mission, the Soviets delivered a note to the Department of State threatening withdrawal of Soviet personnel from the US if such acts of violence are repeated. We are particularly concerned at this time that every step be taken in order to prevent an incident which might jeopardize the President's trip to Moscow.

The Jewish Defense League has implied that one of its objectives is to create sufficient tension in US-Soviet relations so that the President's trip will be cancelled. Rabbi Kahane, the JDL's leader, returned in October from a short stay in Israel, and since his return the level of JDL activity has risen substantially. Earlier this year, Kahane was sentenced to five years' probation in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York after pleading guilty to charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives. Under the terms of his probation, a breach of the peace may be considered a violation and he "may have nothing to do directly or indirectly with guns, bombs, dynamite, gunpowder, fuses, molotov cocktails, clubs or other weapons." The US Probation Office in Brooklyn, however, does not itself have the personnel or facilities to develop fully information which might demonstrate a violation to the satisfaction of the Court, although it would appear that a violation may have already occurred.

The Honorable  
John N. Mitchell,  
Attorney General.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY NR/C for MR DATE 3.13.87

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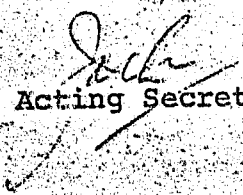
We understand that since Rabbi Kahane left the country in mid-September the FBI has relied heavily on the investigative efforts of the New York City Police and the Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Firearms Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The ATF may have difficulty in maintaining its modest involvement in the case because of its new responsibility for enforcement of portions of Phase II of the President's new economic policy.

We believe it important at this time to increase current law enforcement efforts directed toward the JDL. We know that your Department is working hard to obtain convictions in the cases where indictments have been obtained. If in addition a violation of Rabbi Kahane's probation were detected and he were subsequently incarcerated, the JDL's ability to carry out illegal activities might be decreased. We are informed that Kahane again left this country for Israel on November 18, stating an intention to return on December 26. He of course might return at any time, but in any case his absence does provide an opportunity to review carefully his activities since his return to the US in October. It would be highly desirable if law enforcement authorities were in a position to proceed against him immediately upon his return. Such a result would also demonstrate to the Soviets the sincerity of our pledge to provide them adequate protection.

We would therefore very much appreciate your Department's, and in particular the FBI's, making investigation of Kahane's activities a matter of high priority. We are also asking the Department of the Treasury to increase ATF investigation of the JDL and Kahane. If sustained investigation by your Department and Treasury do not yield results which will help to discourage the JDL from further acts of violence, it may be that our two Departments will want to resume consideration of seeking a Federal injunction against illegal JDL activity.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

  
Acting Secretary